

# The Polish Review

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## POLISH "W. A. A. C."



POLISH "WAACS" CHATTING WITH A CAPTAIN OF THE POLISH ARMY

When Germany sent her war machine crashing over Polish frontiers and her planes roaring over Polish cities, the women of Poland took up the challenge. Their underground battle in Poland is no whit less important than the gallant fight carried on by their sons, brothers and husbands, on the battlefronts of the world.

By a strange turn of fate, thousands of Polish women are now in uniform in Iran and Palestine. Released from Russian concentration camps when the Polish-Russian agreement was signed last year, they found their way to the Middle-East and have joined the Polish Women's Auxiliary Corps, attached to the Polish Army under General Anders. Although many of them mourn the loss of those most dear to them, they have put their personal grief aside and are devoting all their efforts to winning the war. Hundreds of them are already at work in field hospitals. Others are rapidly being trained for liaison, transport and hospital service. Some are now with the Polish armed forces in Scotland.

These Polish "WAACS" are doing dual service: the self-sacrifice, devotion and good humor with which they serve is an inspiration to thousands of Polish soldiers deprived of family and country.

# Statements on Post War Plans

by

## GENERAL WŁADYSŁAW SIKORSKI

THE world situation calls for a moral revolution. We must realize that it is our duty actively to resist evil and injustice, and that cruelty, brutality, violence and all intolerance, of which this total war is so concentrated an expression, must be wiped off the face of the earth. That is what Poland is fighting for; that is what the Polish nation will continue to fight for until the light streaming from the Statue of Liberty once again illuminates the world.

(From an Address by General Sikorski, at the third annual dinner of the Overseas Press Club, Waldorf-Astoria, N.Y.C., Feb. 26, 1942.)

OUT of this terrible war a new world will be born, a world quite different from the old one in every sphere of life. New ideas, new thoughts must inspire the European continent. New conceptions must arise too, if Europe wishes to enjoy security and progress after the war.

Poland is situated in the center of Europe. This places enormous obligations upon us, but at the same time is a source of grave danger. We must survive. The coming idea is federation, but not Napoleon's Pan-Europe, nor Hitler's that would be but another edition of the Holy Roman Empire, a masked conquest of all other European nations by eighty million Germans. The federation of the future will be federation of like with like, of free men with free men. The breaking up of the German bloc and the surrounding of it with a federation of other states, will make it impossible for the German Empire to provoke a world cataclysm every twenty-five years.

(General Sikorski's Statement at Liverpool, on Nov. 6, 1942.)

IN THE Poland of the future, all that she has to offer will be available to every man and woman who lives within her borders, irrespective of race and creed.

The peace that concludes this war, must not be a peace of vengeance. It must be an act of justice that will make impossible armed conflict between nations for many generations. We Poles are fighting this war not only to get back our homes and country. We have wider aspirations, of which we have already given definite proofs by a comprehensive understanding with Czechoslovakia, we have thus begun a real federation of the European Powers. This union of Poland and Czechoslovakia, based on close cooperation with Great Britain, should and will, I believe, introduce in Europe a new era of justice, democracy and cooperation between nations, whatever may have been their relations to each other in the past.

(From General Sikorski's address at Foyle's literary Luncheon, Grosvenor House, London, Nov. 14, 1940.)

THIS second world war provoked by Germany is no ordinary war . . . It is an universal revolution, the consequences of which will be permanently and deeply felt throughout the whole world.

This struggle of nations, races and systems is but the travail of a new order of things based upon the highest universal human values, that for better or worse must determine the future of the world.

The Polish nation deliberately chose to take up arms against those who refuse to acknowledge these values and who seek to put back the clock of history. The Polish nation is determined to stand fast in the trenches of freedom and democracy till final victory is achieved, believing that Poland will take an active part in the final organization of Europe.

Peace and work, political and social security, are the foundations of the new structure we desire to build in future wherein the undisputed liberty of nations and the freedom of the individual will hold sway. This is the conception developed by the Anglo-Saxon and Christian world. It contemplates international order as a voluntary collaboration and government as a duty, as a trusteeship imposing the obligation of protection, guidance and assistance in the development of the creative forces inherent in each nation.

That is why the new order of the world must be evolved from the spirit and ideals of the British Commonwealth and of the great American democracy, and not from the fallacies of totalitarian States.

European States will unite in confederative alliances, capable of surviving economic and political crises. The joint declaration of the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments of November 11, 1940, was the first important step in this direction.

(From a speech delivered by General Sikorski at the Dorchester Hotel in London, on July 2, 1941.)

## HOW JEWS ARE EXTERMINATED BY NAZI FIENDS

London, Dec. —: The following protest from underground Poland has reached the Polish Government here:

"In the Warsaw ghetto behind walls cutting them off from the world, hundreds of thousands of doomed Jews are awaiting death. No hope of rescue exists for them. From nowhere can help reach them. In the streets the German patrols shoot everyone who dares emerge from a house. They also shoot anyone standing at a window. On the pavements lie unburied bodies. Daily a prescribed number of victims, from eight to ten thousand, are slaughtered. The Jewish police is obliged to hand them over to the German executioners. If they do not, they are killed themselves. Children who cannot walk by themselves are thrown onto trucks, in such a brutal manner, that very few reach the ramparts alive. Mothers go mad watching this.

"At the ramparts, railway cars wait. Executioners drive 150 of the doomed people into one carriage, the floor of which is covered with a thick layer of lime and chlorine sprinkled with water. The car doors are then sealed. Sometimes the train starts immediately after being loaded, but sometimes it stands on the siding for a day or two. This no longer matters to anybody. People are packed so tightly that those who die cannot fall but remain standing side by side with those still living or dying slowly from lack of air, water and food, and the fumes of lime and chlorine. Wherever and whenever death trains arrive they contain only corpses.

"The only escape from this awful fate is a speedy death. And the assassins foresaw this. All chemist shops in the ghetto have been closed so that poison cannot be obtained. There are no weapons. The only thing that remains is to throw oneself from the window onto the pavement. Many of the doomed elude execution this way. What has been done in the Warsaw ghetto has been repeated during the last six months in hundreds of larger and smaller Polish places. The total of Jews murdered already exceeds one million, this figure is increasing day to day. All are perishing, rich and poor, old and young, women, men, youth and children, Catholic Jews as well as Orthodox Jews. All guilty of having been born Jews, are condemned to annihilation by Hitler.

A German Special Court in Katowice sentenced Moszek Schwarzb erg to death for illegal slaughter and supplying meat to the starving population in the Bendzin district.

## NOT A SECOND BUT A THIRD FRONT IS OPEN

London, Dec. —: In a broadcast to Poland, Minister of Information Stronski said:

"The North African front became a reality in November and grew under our very eyes as a result of American and British co-operation.

"The southern Mediterranean front facing Europe is of great value to the Allies and can portend only evil to Germany. When the Eighth British Army under Generals Alexander and Montgomery, advancing from Egypt and Libya, contacts the American, British and French Army under Generals Eisenhower, Anderson and Giraud, advancing from Morocco and Algeria, and when Rommel is definitely annihilated the Allies will face southern Europe in an immense arc from Gibraltar to Asia Minor all along the Mediterranean. Remember, the southern approach to Europe is not a back entrance, on the contrary, it is the main historical gateway through which history entered Europe.

"If the North African front is already strong and vast we must remember that this did not happen suddenly within a month. It is the result of three years of immense and stubborn British effort to defend Egypt and Suez, to expel the Italians from their huge African Empire in Abyssinia and Eritrea, and to drive the Germans and Italians from Libya into Tripolitania. Polish soldiers were privileged to participate at Tobruk and El Gaza.

"Each new front opened requires long, and patient preparation. Remember this when your thoughts swing from the Eastern front in Russia and the Southern front in the Mediterranean, to hopeful expectation of a Western European front on the Atlantic coast. This also is a long-range job, but it is slowly taking shape and who could fail to see that the powerful British raids on Germany, to which Poland's avenging eagles are making so fine a contribution. For months they have been destroying her war industry and are tying up large German air and land forces in the West. That is only a beginning, but it is already a Western front, inflicting hard blows on Germany. Without a doubt the turning point in the war has now been achieved!"

## A NEW SUBMARINE

A new submarine named "Dzik" has been added to the Polish Navy. The launching of this submarine took place in the presence of Vice-Admiral Swirski and Admiral De La Motte of the Royal Navy. The ship was christened by Mrs. Ashton, the wife of the oldest shipyard worker.

# General Sikorski's Visit to the United States

## POLISH ACE'S FINE RECORD

The British Air Ministry's weekly bulletin pays the following tribute to Flight Lieutenant J., a Polish bomber pilot, who has been awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross. He has made sixty war flights from this country as a member of the Polish bomber squadron, stationed in the north of England. He had just finished training when the Germans invaded Poland and almost from the first day of the war he was out on reconnaissance.

He made his first flight from England in 1940 when he flew in a battle to Boulogne. A few days later he took another aircraft over Ostend. Then his squadron changed to Wellingtons and in that type he first raided Antwerp. Since then he has been over at least twenty German towns.

Flight Lieutenant J. took part in the thousand bomber raids and visited Rostock, Luebeck, Osma-brueck, Essen, Hamburg, Mannheim and other towns. Some of the big cities he raided half a dozen times. He is resting just now, but he says:

"I want to get back to flying, and I hope to be at the controls of an aircraft again shortly, if not on bombers then on some other type."

Besides a Distinguished Flying Cross he also has the Polish "Vir-tuti Militari" and a Cross of Valor.

## Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief to be Guest of Overseas Press Club

## POLISH WAR, PEACEAIMS

London, Dec. —: The Polish National Committee in London has recently adopted a resolution on Poland's general war and peace aims. These include the preservation of her Eastern frontiers as fixed by the Treaty of Riga and the making of Europe secure against any possibility of another German aggression. Among Poland's peace aims is the creation in Central and Eastern Europe of a Confederation of democratic nations having common interests and aims. Already Poland and Czechoslovakia have agreed on the principle of such collaboration and the Central and Eastern European Planning Board in New York has done much to bring Greece and Yugoslavia within the same orbit.

### MR. EDEN'S PLEDGE

*Foreign Secretary Eden said in the House of Commons on Nov. 18th that "sufferings caused to innocent people by the German policy of compulsory deportation of civilians from occupied countries in Europe will be a very relevant consideration in determining post-war arrangements in Europe."*

GENERAL WLADYSLAW SIKORSKI arrived on December 1st on an official visit to the United States and at once proceeded to Washington where he was the guest of President Roosevelt. He had two luncheons with the President, a long session with Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles, several meetings with the combined Chiefs of Staff and other high officials of the United States Government.

## "AND PASS THE AMMUNITION"

London, Dec. —: Mrs. Irene, the wife of a Polish master of an armed Polish merchant ship, distinguished herself during the landing of the American forces in North Africa.

She not only brought food to the crew but passed the ammunition when the ship was replying to shore batteries.

Before the war she was a nurse on a Polish liner where she met her husband.

Mrs. Irene was in Poland when the war broke out, but escaped through Rumania and joined her husband who, after the collapse of France, was interned with his ship in Dakar. He succeeded in saving his ship and landed in England. Since then his wife has acted as paymaster, looked after the health and welfare of the crew and . . . passed the ammunition.

Of special interest were General Sikorski's conferences with General Marshall, U. S. Army Chief of Staff, and General Arnold commanding the American Air Forces.

During his stay in Washington the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Law was conferred upon him by the Catholic University, the Cardinal Archbishop of Baltimore presiding.

General Wladyslaw Sikorski will leave for New York next week and on Wednesday, December 16th will be the guest of the Overseas Press Club at a luncheon in his honor to be held at the Lotos Club. General Sikorski will have no other opportunity of meeting the press in New York as he will leave almost immediately for Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo. After visiting the large Polish communities in these cities and getting a first hand view of America's war effort, the Polish Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Mexico, as the guest of President Camacho. From there he is expected to go to Canada.

## TERROR OF HITLER'S "NEW ORDER" IN POLAND CONTINUES UNABATED

A serious train wreck has occurred on the Lodz-Pabianice line. The causes are unknown, but many Germans were injured.

V.V.V.

Six camps for 850 *Volksdeutsche* children not knowing German, have been organized in Wielkopolska under the leadership of the Hitlerjugend.

V.V.V.

A German Special Court in Lodz, sentenced Marjan Szadkowski and Jozef Walburg of Kutno to death for smuggling food into the Government General.

V.V.V.

Berlin has issued a decree abolishing customs duties on most goods from occupied countries. This will further facilitate the economic exploitation of occupied countries.

V.V.V.

A German Special Court has sentenced a former Polish soldier, Jan Janicki, aged 35, to death, for mistreating German guerrillas — *Freikorpskämpfer*—caught by his regiment in 1939. This is proof that in 1939 the German minority in Poland, although Polish citizens, fought actively against Poland.

Jewish refugees in Stockholm have received information that in the Bialystok district 1,300 people were shut up in a synagogue by the Germans, who set fire to the building. All were burned to death.

V.V.V.

In Poznan a postal official, Jozef Soterski, was sentenced to death for "committing a serious crime when on duty." No details were given.

V.V.V.

The Danzig Special Court sentenced a Polish agricultural worker, one Jankowski of Kartuzy, to death for refusing to work for a German and resisting arrest by the Gestapo.

V.V.V.

A Polish couple in Danzig, Pawel and Wiktoria Mindak of Wrzeszcz, were sentenced to death for the sabotage of warm clothing intended for the Wehrmacht.

V.V.V.

In Danzig, two Kashubians, Miller and Benderski, were sentenced to death, and three others, Ligenza, Kochanski and Luckowski, to three years severest *Straflager* for raiding a freight train on its way to the Eastern front.

A British Admiralty communiqué praises the Polish warships and armed Polish merchant vessels that took part in the recent operations in the Mediterranean. A detailed account will be released shortly.

V.V.V.

Cracow papers publish the obituary of S.S. unit commander Karl Fuchs, who "died performing his duty for the great Reich." The obituary is signed by the chief of the German police in Radom, S.S. Obersturmbannfuehrer Uphardt.

V.V.V.

On the night of Nov. 21-22 a fire broke out in a German medical store in Lodz. Two people perished and ten were seriously injured. In Bydgoszcz another German medical store was also burnt down. The Germans offer no explanation on how these fires started.

V.V.V.

The German Special Court in Danzig has tried 23 members of the Bible Research Society for criticising the Hitler regime. Of the

accused, Kazimierz Polmanski and Tomasz Debicki were sentenced to six years severest *Straflager* each, all others were sentenced to three years severest *Straflager*.

V.V.V.

A German report of police action against the so-called Lelonek guerrilla group in Silesia has just been published. Lelonek was killed when the German police one night surrounded a guerrilla hide-out. The Poles fought to the last, only the owner of the house, Ignacy Lipko, made good his escape. German losses were heavy.

V.V.V.

Armed Polish guerrillas recently demolished a German store near Blachownia, raided a store belonging to a *Volksdeutscher*, Kotschek. The Poles succeeded in escaping on bicycles. German police have so far been powerless to prevent such raids by small parties of Poles who attack German property in Polish territory now illegally "incorporated" in German Silesia.

# POLAND SPEAKS . . .

An excerpt from the broadcast made by General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, on Poland's "Independence Day", November 11, 1942

WENTY-FOUR years ago today Germany's defeat became a day of Poland's Independence. The Polish Republic was no new creation, it was the continuation of the pre-partition Poland to which the nation in view of its indomitable fight for Independence was fully entitled. Poland could only rise from the ruins of Germany. It is the same this time.

The overthrow of the Third Reich, the breaking and pressing back of aggressive and insatiable Germanism into the place from which it emerged and the annihilation of its military might will liberate Poland, restore freedom to the conquered peoples of Europe and create conditions in which they will be able to organize themselves securely and develop freely in the sun of justice.

The fact that the Allies have now taken the initiative in war operations—which we witness—presages a victory for all nations shackled today with the heavy chains of slavery and will bring the just result given above. Until this moment, in the second half of 1941 the chief weight of the war on the continent was borne by Soviet Russia.

Future German efforts on the Russian front, however gigantic they may be, will be very different from the action at the beginning of the campaign, when Hitler intended by means of an offensive extending in many directions and covering nearly the whole east to overthrow and defeat Soviet Russia in one stroke. Russia's effective defense at that time, the Red Army's winter counter-offensive later weakened the Germans to such an extent that they were forced to limit their aggressive operations to the southern district. Today the German Army is lying impotent before Stalingrad and the Caucasus. Furthermore, we are witnesses to an unheard-of lightning defeat which the German and Italian armies under Rommel's command suffered on the Egyptian-Libyan front. This is practically the exclusive achievement of British arms.

Simultaneously the splendid U. S. Armies with the outstanding cooperation of British Allied Navies marched into North Africa which will undoubtedly bring about the liquidation of the North African front and form a secure base for future Allied operation.

These Allied successes were a great surprise to Hitler. By replying to them with the occupation of the whole of France, allegedly to defend her interests, and by requesting Pétain who protested against this, to come to Versailles where he is now prisoner, he only increased the French nation's resistance.

Recent events are the fruits of a steadfast stand taken by the great British nation which on September 3rd, 1939,

honoring her alliance with Poland, took up in Churchill's words a life and death struggle for the honor and freedom of mankind. They have wrested the initiative from the enemy's hands which foreshadows future Allied operations on the continent. Thus in the coming year Russia will not have to withstand the full military Axis might in the East for the latter is now considerably overtaxed, confronted by our Allies' fresh armies who are fired with a splendid spirit, who have modern equipment and who are prepared perfectly for battle and who are supported by a strong Polish Army.

The war may still last a long time, but recent events definitely brought the end nearer. I know what tremendous comfort those facts will be to you whom the brutal and cruel invader drove into catacombs.

The wishes which the Polish Government has just received from you in Poland confirms it. You say: "Allied victory in North Africa evoked a spontaneous joy here. It increased enthusiasm to fight and faith of a near German defeat. We beg you in the name of the Polish nation to send the heartiest wishes for their continued success to President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, to the British and United States Armies."

Twenty-four years ago we found our country economically



GENERAL SIKORSKI AT THE MICROPHONE

Seated are President Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz and Minister of Information Stanislaw Stronski.

devastated and politically divided. Left entirely to our own resources we had to rebuild villages, towns, trades, business by ourselves, for at that time, Poland received no help from the outside. No reparations were granted her, and she was left with enormous debts. A free Sejm of the reborn Republic gave the Polish State a constitution permeated with the liberal spirit. At that time already all citizens had equality before the law regardless of religious or national differences. All were guaranteed political, religious and social freedom. Then we created a foreign policy directed only by Polish *raison d'état*. What is more we organized very swiftly Polish armed forces which practically from the first moment took up the fight for age-old Polish territory in order to force the frontiers of our state by our own efforts. We founded new industry, working for rebuilding Poland's economy and communications. We formed our navy and merchant fleets, we carried out considerable agricultural reforms, we established a new system of protection for workers, social insurance, we took revolutionary steps, in national education reform, we raised the level of our eastern territories politically and economically by uniting them more closely with the mother country.

These splendid Polish achievements, opposed to the German "New Order" built on slavery, infamy, abase-

(Please turn to page 6)

# THE THIRTIETH FLIGHT

By RYSZARD KIERSNOWSKI

IN THE far distance, somewhere between the dark earth and the silvery stars, the throb of the last plane died away in the night. A deep, murky silence fell over the airfield.

The Pomeranian division, celebrating its second birthday, had just taken off for a raid on Bremen.

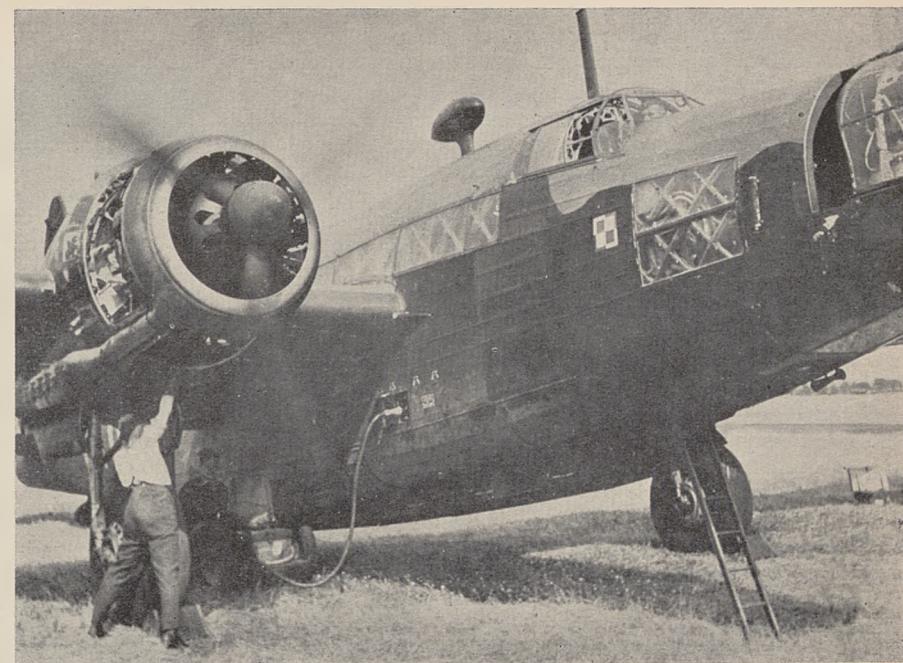
We were sitting in a jeep at the edge of the field, awed by the sudden stillness. Just a few minutes ago, a mighty bomber had stood near us, just a few minutes ago we were talking with its crew. They were all in high spirits, laughing and joking. Poland's avenging eagles had left on their deadly mission as light-heartedly as if they were going on a peace-time flight.

"Will they return?" was thought of only later. It was then that my friend began his story.

"You see, none of us is a superman. Maybe we are more at home with the idea of death, maybe we don't go in for hysterics, but we are only human after all. And believe me, an aviator dying in action is no more of a hero than the foot soldier who falls during an attack. A pilot's death may be more poetic, more impressive. The death of a soldier tearing his way through barbed wire, across mine-fields, under a rain of shells, is far more tragic and far less spectacular. I can think of nothing sadder than a cross with the inscription, 'Unknown'."

"No, we are not supermen, and life even now is sweet to all of us. Such were my thoughts before my thirtieth flight. It is important to us because after his thirtieth combat flight, each pilot gets a long rest period, a chance to recuperate physically and mentally, to stock up enough stamina for a second 'thirty'.

"Anyone going on his thirtieth flight climbs into his



FILLING HER UP!

plane with a certain emotion. Suppose, after twenty-nine successful flights, the thirtieth spoiled everything. Not a very pleasant thought, I assure you.

"Up we went. Our objective was far away and atmospheric conditions were good. At the other side of the channel we ran into a few searchlights, and a little flak—nothing much. Over our objective there was great commotion and things were pretty hot, but nothing untoward occurred. We dropped our bombs on our target and headed back for our base.

"Everything was going smoothly. We were returning with the satisfaction born of a job well done. After I made contact with our base, I was positive my thirtieth flight would end happily.

"We were close to the shores of England when the radio ordered us to turn back. It seemed that one of our crews was getting a sea bath. What could we do? Without a second's thought we started in search of that dinghy.

"We scanned the waves, straining our eyes to catch a glimpse of the little rubber boat. No luck. Instead two Focke-Wulfs suddenly came out of the sun. They appeared too quickly and were too close for us to dream of escape. We had to accept battle.

"Real hell was unleashed. Caught in a hail of shells and bullets, we returned their fire. The Focke-Wulfs were sitting on our tails. Our rear gunner was giving them all he had, but he finally ran out of ammunition. He reported this, and went over to the side machine guns. He died there. Things were beginning to look nasty.

"I do not know exactly what happened next. A terrific shock knocked me unconscious and . . . we struck the sea from a low altitude.

"My story should end here. But man proposes and God disposes. To this day I don't know what miracle threw me clear of the plane. I don't know whether the plane broke in half, or whether the glass broke over the pilot's cubicle, releasing me from the craft. The fact remains that I was out of the plane without the least will or effort on my part.



"CONFESSTION" AFTER A RAID

(Please turn to page 12)

# O Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us!

A passage from "The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt"

By RULKA LANGER (Roy Slavonic Publications, New York, N. Y.)

ALL night long the German guns kept up their terrific pounding. It was unlike anything we had ever had before, "hurricane fire" is what they call it, I guess. And now it was morning, and the bombardment still went on, and on, and on. . . . Not a moment of respite.

I wished I had a deaf ear to turn to the German artillery fire. As it was at least half a dozen times I had fallen off into a doze, only to be awakened by a terrific crash that seemed to be no more than a few hundred yards away. I hadn't even taken off my shoes that night, and I got up sore and terribly tired. Washing would have refreshed me, but our tubful of water was too precious to be wasted on mere cleanliness. I dabbed at myself and the children with eau-de-cologne, and as it was Sunday we set off to church.

The church was just around the corner, and we didn't walk there, we ran, keeping as close to the walls as possible.

The church was packed with people, but a strange hush hung over the crowd. There was no usual shuffling of feet, coughs, whispers of prayers. Very few lips moved. People just stood there, silent, motionless, hunger, fatigue and tension written on every face. . . .

And then at the altar the priest intoned the "Supplications," the deep bass of the organ answered somewhere from the back, and suddenly the whole church burst into that most dramatic of human pleas:

*God Thou Holy—God Thou Mighty,  
Mighty and Immortal,  
Have mercy upon us!*

It was like the supreme cry of distress; it beat at the walls, shook the roof, fought its way to the Heavens. . . .

It wasn't God that answered; it was the German artillery.

Wheeeeeeeeew—Crash!

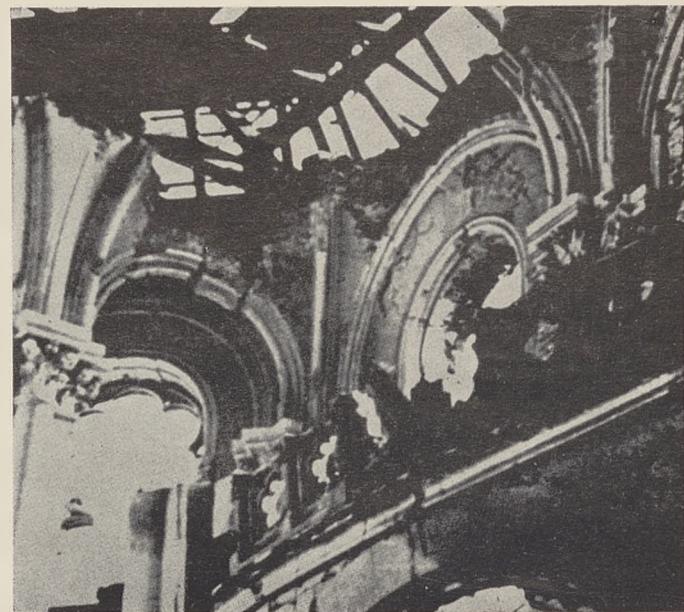
But still the hymn continued, stronger, more insistent, swelling in prayer, in hope, in despair . . .

*. . . from hunger, fire and war  
Deliver us, O Lord.*

Crash!!! (This was terribly close.)

*. . . from sudden and unexpected death  
Save us O Lord!*

No, it was too much, too much. I couldn't stand it any



The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Warsaw During the Bombardment.

longer: the candle-light on the altar began to dance before my eyes, everything became blurred, and two heavy tears rolled down my cheeks. Others followed. I was crying, helplessly, like a baby. It made me terribly ashamed, for no one else wept. All around me people knelt with eyes on the altar, their faces transfixed, and sang, sang as if their hearts were going to burst

*"We sinners implore you, O Lord  
Have mercy upon us."*

But there was no mercy. The bombardment continued, furious, inexorable. Suddenly there was a commotion at the door, quick footsteps ran along the aisle, and I saw a man disappear into the door of the vestry. A minute later the crowd opened to let pass a group of three people, a priest and two men carrying candles. With majestic slowness the little procession proceeded to the door, down the church steps and at last disappeared into the empty street.

Viaticum for the dying. . . . Have mercy upon us!

## POLAND SPEAKS...

(Continued from page 4)

ment and destruction, were due to Poland's vitality, strength, spirit, love of work and particularly its unequalled dynamic character and healthy instincts.

The new Poland with its front directed against Germany will cooperate closely with the great western democracies, and our pact with the Soviet Union ought to be the beginning of a mutual understanding of historic importance. I think that Russia will understand the need for and the value of a powerful Poland as a factor of peace stabilization in Central Europe and that she won't depart from the way of respecting her full state sovereignty and Poland's right to make her own internal arrangements in accordance with her tradition and needs. I base my convictions of this respect on Premier Stalin's words to me, and on the agreement signed on Dec. 4th, 1941,

in the Kremlin.

The 24 years which separate us from the independence day were in Poland's history a period of great ups and downs of tremendous achievements and not less greater mistakes. We are suffering much at this time, but this suffering has united all classes, professional, peasants and workers, in one large family that love Poland, their motherland, above all.

We have learnt not a little during the past period but despite bloody sacrifices our faith in ourselves, our vitality, in the spiritual strength of the nation and its immortality has been strengthened. I therein pledge a better future and greatness if only we develop and deepen those moral values confirmed by our deeds in this war and in the daily labor and harmonious cooperation of all citizens of the illustrious Polish Republic.

# FOR TOTAL VICTORY

By MICHAL KWAPISZEWSKI, Minister Plenipotentiary and Counselor of the Polish Embassy in Washington, D. C.

THE seventeen European countries over-run by Germany since the advent of Hitler had an aggregate population of 224,000,000 before the war. If we add to this the population of that part of Russia now in German hands, it is no exaggeration to say that more than 300,000,000 human beings live under the iron heel of the Herrenvolk, and are being reduced to slavery by scientific methods applied with prehistoric savagery. This thoroughly German combination of barbarism and biology seeks to exterminate the intellectuals of the most civilized strata of humanity and seeks to debase the masses and deprive them of all freedom so that they may be the "workers" of the human ant-hole conceived as a "New Order" by the diseased brain of a paranoiac dictator.

It is inconceivable that a better world can be created unless and until complete victory has been achieved over this monstrous attempt by the modern Huns to destroy European civilization, as they destroyed Roman civilization fifteen hundred years ago.

Victory must therefore be complete. The war must end by the unconditional surrender of Germany and the occupation of the entire country by the forces of the United Nations. Then Germany must be disarmed and deprived of all means of rearming. That means not only the destruction of all her existing arms of offense and defense, her guns and tanks and planes and ships, but the destruction, or bodily removal to other countries, of all industrial equipment — down to the last machine tool — that could possibly be used to manufacture other guns, tanks, planes or ships for use in a new aggression upon our children or our children's children.

As is only natural, the subjugated peoples after their liberation will demand retribution for the unspeakable German crimes, but retribution does not mean revenge. If ever the German people are to be readmitted to the community of civilized peoples, the relationship between the democratic and liberty-loving peoples and Germany must not be based on revenge.

Nor must such relationship be based on idyllic forgiveness in the atmosphere of Versailles and Geneva, turning the other cheek to be smitten by "better Germans." "Hawks have always eaten pigeons," as Voltaire said, and will continue to do so. For fifteen hundred years since they first pushed back the peaceful Poles from the shores of the southern Baltic and over-ran Gaul and Rome — the

*... The Hitler system in Germany is not merely the dictatorship of the Nazi Party. Whoever thinks it is simply does not understand the real situation. The Hitler system is deliberately constructed with a view to maintaining the leadership of Germany's war determination under all circumstances. That was the aim for which the Army worked throughout the Weimar Republic and increasingly so after 1933.*

"GOLLANZ IN GERMAN WONDERLAND"  
by Curt Geyer and Walter Loeb (page 21)

*... We declare openly before the whole world that the German people are deeply involved in the guilt for this monstrous war of aggression.*

"GOLLANZ IN GERMAN WONDERLAND"  
by Curt Geyer and Walter Loeb (page 52)

Germans have a constant record of aggression. As Tacitus said, they have always thought it more manly to take what they wanted by force from their neighbors, than to create the same thing by their own toil. Six times within a century Germany has started a war of aggression, and each time the German people have marched as on man behind their Prussian Kings, their German Emperors, their low-born Fuehrers.

So we must give up, once and for all, a fruitless search for "better Germans." Not as an excuse to destroy the Germans, but simply because we can never trust them, can never rely upon their cooperation with democracy, for democracy is abhorrent to them. Cooperation is the only possible basis of postwar settlement. We must see clearly that a nation claiming for itself the monopoly of ruling the world, is organically incapable of adjusting itself to international cooperation, the basic condition of equality between nations, and of ordered civilization.

The very conception of a Herrenvolk, or "master race", the very words of the German national anthem, the only one of its kind in the world — "Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles," (Germany, Germany above all else) — these are the realities we must cope with.

A total war, like the one now being waged upon us, cannot be won by reliance on half-measures, nor can we protect ourselves against a new deluge of barbarism and suffering, if we refuse to profit by the lessons of the past.

The possibility of securing the cooperation of Germany is an illusion as dangerous and childish as the belief in the unpopularity of Hitler in Germany. All this is closely linked to the search for "better Germans." No honest student of German affairs can ever agree with the wistful thinkers who stubbornly maintain, in defiance of the facts, that the enemies of Hitler will assert themselves at some given moment and hasten our common victory.

What may happen is that when the General Staff knows not only that it is beaten, but that they cannot prevent an invasion of Germany, they will ask for an armistice and produce overnight a government of "good Germans" ready to cooperate with the United Nations in binding up the wounds of civilization and averting the whip of calamity, *that Germany may not suffer!*

No fact is better established than the solidarity of all Germans with the age-old conquering spirit of Pan-Germanism. To create a true picture of this war, we must constantly insist upon total victory for two reasons:

First, it is clear beyond any doubt that there is not, nor can there ever be, any basis for compromise between the diametrically opposed principles of democracy on the one hand and totalitarianism on the other. The world is simply not big enough for the modern version of Pan-Germanism garbed in Hitler's racial theory, and the right of all nations to peace, freedom and independence!

(Please turn to page 8)

# THEY WILL NEVER GERMANIZE POMORZE!

GERMANY has had to abandon her original intention of Germanizing Pomorze by mass murder and mass deportation of Poles, followed by colonization of the region with German nationals. There are not enough colonists, nor can Germany afford to do without Polish labor.

To salvage its Germanization program, the Reich has embarked on a campaign of "redeeming lost German blood." Early in October of this year Gauleiter Foerster spent several days in Bydgoszcz, addressing gatherings of German women, German teachers and members of German farmer organizations. In one of his speeches he declared that "if between 1793 and 1914 all the inhabitants of these lands had been reared in a purely German spirit, this soil would never have become Polish. The HITLER-JUGEND and the BUND DEUTSCHER MAEDEL must therefore help us to rear the children of those who have been conditionally included in the third category of the German national list. In this way the region will become thoroughly German — German to the last man, woman and child. Others are not needed here."

The "third category of the German national list" comprises Poles, forcibly classified as German. But the Nazis know that neither German education nor German passports, will denationalize the adult population. So, with diabolic cunning, they have decided to concentrate on Polish children, in the hope that the latter will prove less resistant to indoctrination than the older Poles.

A cynical description of this Germanization program is given in a recent issue of the HAMBURGER FREMDENBLATT by Herr Loebssack, head of the German school system in Pomorze. The article opens with an account of the author's visit to a camp for girls, kidnapped from their Polish families and placed on the German list as subjects for Germanization. Although supposedly of "German descent," these girls were Poles through and through, as Loebssack himself admits. To-day, in their new Nazi surroundings, they are being



FISHERFOLK OF POMORZE

"taught to forget their Polish past."

Loebssack points out various tragic complications and psychic conflicts engendered by this denationalization process. He boasts that German authorities regard them with tolerance, paying more attention to a person's present attitude toward Germanism and his output of labor, than to his background.

Despite German all-out efforts to depolonize Pomorze's youngest generation, despite German callousness and sadism, Poland's maritime province keeps its chin up. They will never Germanize Pomorze!

## FOR TOTAL

(Continued from page 7)

Surely it must be clear to all that this war was not provoked by a small group of Prussian militarists, staff officers, or Junkers, who made themselves the masters of an ill-starred but good-natured German people whose happiness lies in singing Schumann's songs by the flowing Rhine; but that we are face to face with a generation of brutal, pagan and sadistic Germans, in unanimous solidarity the world over, who believe and always will believe they are better than other men, who proclaim their superiority, and seek to crown their egotism by dominion over a world of slaves.

No! The rejection of all compromise, and war till total victory is achieved, victory that will remove the German menace, once and for all, is a duty the United Nations owe to mankind.

It is the deepest conviction of the Polish people that the first and most essential condition of lasting peace in

## VICTORY

Europe, is the establishment of a European system based on respect of law and the equality of all peoples. Such an international policy is indispensable to universal prosperity and universal progress.

The power of the great American democracy issues out of the free Union of States and is a pattern for the ideal of Confederation for the peoples of Europe, who know that the united democratic nations of the world are fighting for the freedom of man and the equality of nations and their equal rights.

We cannot betray the trust of our people. In exerting all our forces to win this war by total victory, let us prepare a strong and lasting peace based on the disarmament of Germany, depriving her forever of material means and territorial bases for future aggression; and on the creation of federated unions of free and equal nations, united in humanity's most noble task of raising the level of civilization, culture and prosperity for all free men.

# THE POLISH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND ITS EXPORT TRADE

AS AN outcome of the military operations conducted on Polish soil from 1914 to 1920, nearly all the chemical factories of Poland were destroyed or seriously damaged. The Polish chemical industry came through the difficult reconstruction period with eminent success, and with but few exceptions, was soon able to satisfy all the needs of the home market. Even the great economic depression of 1930-1934 made no dent in the country's chemical output; on the contrary, Polish chemical production rose during these years. By 1938 the chemical industry accounted for more than 10% of the total value of the country's industrial production.

The Polish chemical industry was based upon very firm raw material bases. There were more than ample reserves of coal, crude oil, salt, enormous deposits of potassium, pyrites (for the manufacture of sulphuric acid), cellulose, etc.; Poland occupied third place in Europe as a producer of zinc, and second place as a producer of cadmium. The chemical industry in Poland also had at its disposal many basic plant raw materials: wood, herbs, oleaginous seeds, potatoes. The latter served as a basis for the manufacture of alcohol and synthetic rubber.

The production of artificial fertilizers, nitrogen and potassium, increased many times over in post-war years in Poland. The output of dyestuffs and intermediates for the textile industry had developed in a most gratifying manner, and the manufacture of explosives and detonating devices had attained a level which more than covered home needs. There were three rayon factories that produced more than 13,200,000 pounds of rayon yarn per annum, and the production of staple cut fibre was increasing steadily. The coal by-product industry had also developed along satisfactory lines and produced such commodities as benzol, naphthalene, aniline dyes and many other by-products of coal.

One of the most interesting and latest developments in the chemical industry of Poland was the rapid rise of the manufacture of plastics from cellulose, casein and phenols. Pharmaceutical products formed another branch of the chemical industry that had made enormous progress, particularly in the field of specifics, sera, vaccines, etc. Finally, the rubber industry achieved remarkable progress in Poland; technical rubber goods, automobile tires and inner tubes, surgical and hospital goods and fancy wares, were manufactured on a large scale. Some Polish rubber goods, such as rubber impregnated balloon fabrics, had acquired world-wide fame after the many successes gained by the Polish balloons in the Gordon-Bennet International Balloon Race.

Despite the fact that the Polish chemical industry was a young one, and that it had to compete with other countries well established in the world markets, the high quality and low price levels of its products soon assured it an important position in Poland's total export trade. The value of exported chemicals came to about 5% or 6% of our aggregate exports, with an upward trend well in evi-

dence. At first the export of Polish chemicals was directed primarily to the neighboring countries, but in time the number of foreign buyers increased greatly.

More than 20% of Poland's chemical exports were sent to Japan, China, Dutch East Indies, British India, the United States, Brazil, Argentina, etc. There was not a country in the world which did not, in some measure, consume products of Poland's chemical industry.

Leading chemical exports were artificial fertilizers, super-phosphates; coal by-products, crude and refined benzois, prepared and road tars, pitch, and more elaborately transformed products such as naphthalene, phenols, cresols, pyridine bases, etc.

Poland possessed natural conditions for the development of those branches of the chemical industry which

use wood as their raw material. Hence, she exported much tar, turpentine, charcoal, colophony, acetic acid, methyl alcohol, acetone, chloroform, etc.

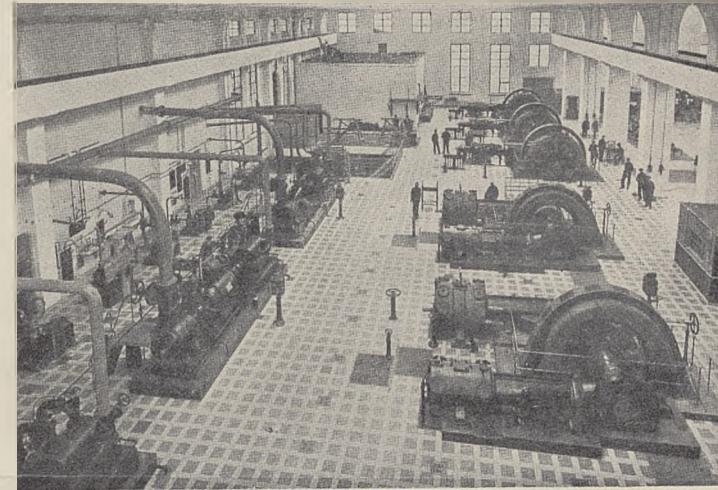
Important also were bone glue, skin glue, and their by-products, such as undeglutinized and roasted bone meal, ground bones, etc.

In addition to explosives, Poland exported organic chemical products such as glycerine, rayon yarn, viscose paper, synthetic organic dyestuffs (aniline dyes), oilcloths, imitations of linoleum on jute and paper, plastics,

artificial horn and celluloid, plant glues and a great many other goods.

Inorganic chemistry was represented by: zinc white (exported to about forty European and overseas countries), lithopone, zinc chloride, and other zinc compounds; calcium carbide (Poland exported more than 10% of the world export), chloride of lime, bleaching powder, and other products. Production of fixed nitrogen compounds was maintained at a very high level; and technical ammonium nitrate (ammonia saltpetre), refined sodium nitrate, refined potassium nitrate, nitrate of soda, sal-ammoniac, ammonium and other carbonates and bicarbonates were exported in considerable quantities. The manufacture of soda stood at a very high technical level and was marketed abroad. Also exported were: caustic soda, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphate (Glauber salt), sodium sulphite and acidic sodium sulphite, sodium and potassium bichromates, potassium carbonate, caustic potash, potassium hydroxide, potassium chlorate, red lead and litharge, cupric sulphate, and such alloys as ferrosilicon and ferrochrome, various kinds of mineral pigments and paints, and very many other items.

Research chemistry in Poland was grounded on fine traditions. The last President of Free Poland, Ignacy Moscicki, had been a professor of chemistry before assuming his Presidential duties and continued his active interest in research work, while in office. The inspiring example of Mme. Sklodowska-Curie served to spur the trained workers of countless government and private laboratories to new efforts in wresting from nature, her closely guarded secrets.



# POLISH LACE AND WHITE EMBROIDERY

By DR. IRENA PIOTROWSKA



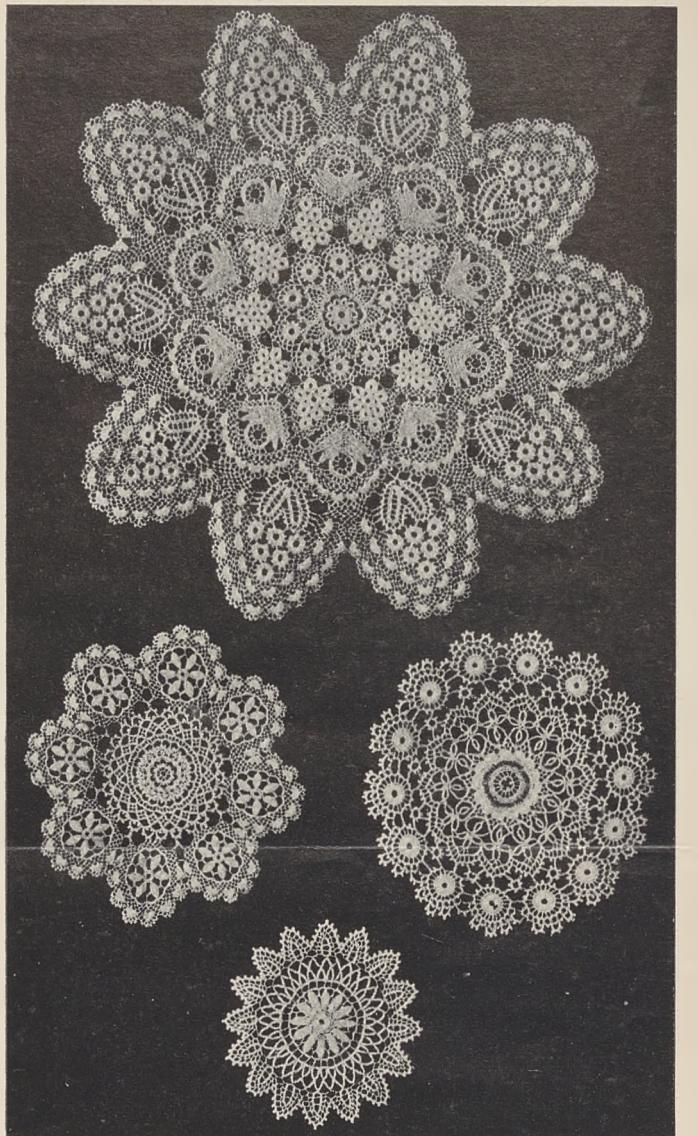
*Bobbin Lace  
State School of Lace-Making  
in Zakopane*

IN POLAND, lace-making was already known in the 16th century, and as elsewhere in Europe, became especially popular during the first half of the 17th century. At that time its use was confined to the landed gentry and well-to-do middle classes, living in towns. Technique and design were strongly influenced by lace imported by ladies-of-fashion from Italy, the Netherlands and France. Point lace from Brussels and Alençon, bobbin lace from Antwerp and Valenciennes were known and highly appreciated in Poland. They were copied over and over again; however, in places remote from fashionable centers, design was influenced not by foreign models but by flowers that grew on Polish soil. But during the 19th century, cheap machine-produced lace, imitating the style of hand-made specimens, seemed to satisfy the demand of most city women.

Thus Polish lace would never have had a real chance to develop, but for the fact, that the technique and pattern of lace-making were picked up by groups of Polish peasants who, in two parts of Poland, continued to produce lace until the German invasion. One of these oases of Polish lace-making was situated in the southern mountainous region of Polish Silesia, another not far to the north of Warsaw.

The Silesian highlander-women learned to make bobbin lace from town-dwellers or from noblewomen some time during the 18th century. As years went by they got rid of the foreign elements in the design, and introduced their own patterns, inspired by flowers, and leaves, and grasses, that they saw around them. In the hands of these peasant women the style of the lace became Polish.

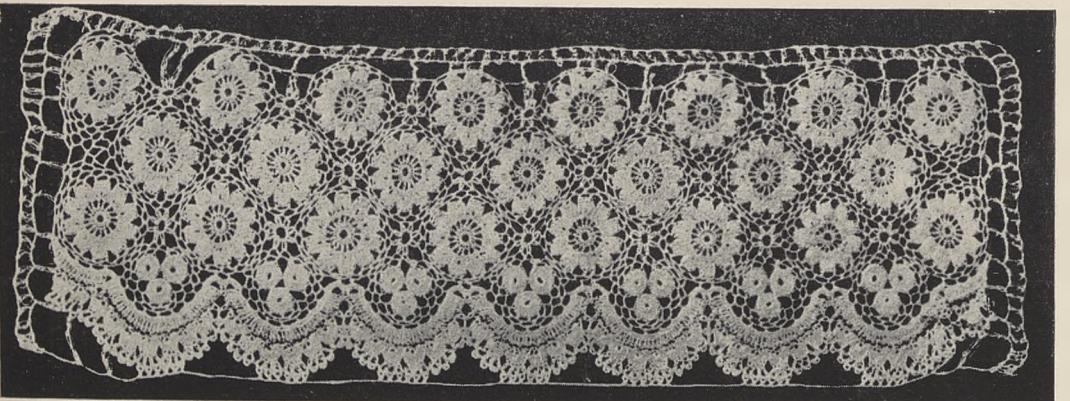
Among Silesian people, lace is inseparable from the coif worn by married women. It forms the front part, covering the forehead very tightly and reaching down to the eyebrows. While earlier Silesian lace made for that purpose was bobbin lace, at the beginning of this century a few Silesian women, some of them still alive and proud of their accomplishment, introduced crochet work. This



*Silesian Crochet Lace "Roses"*

crochet lace, having about the same floral motifs as the bobbin lace, attained, nonetheless, a greater degree of beauty and refinement than the latter. It may be added that only a few years before this war broke out, needle-point technique was becoming popular in Silesia.

As soon as Poland regained her freedom after the last war, a number of societies for the preservation of Polish peasant arts and crafts were established, as peasant art was threatened more and more every year by the com-



*Silesian Women's Crochet Lace Cap*

petition of much cheaper mass production. One of these organizations devoted itself to sustaining the interest of Silesian women in lace-making. They achieved this by giving them the opportunity to earn some money by selling their products in the cities. They also encouraged peasant women to make — in addition to their coifs — lace suitable for use in city interior. Thanks to this encouragement, many beautiful round tablecloths of crochet lace were made by Silesian women in various sizes. These were called "roses". These tablecloths have the same motifs as the peasants' coifs: stylized Polish field flowers.

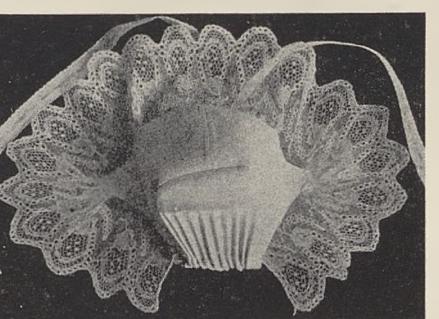
While the highlander-women's coifs and the "roses" are the best known products of Silesian lace-makers. Another variety of lace is made in other parts of Silesia. Very interesting, but now unfortunately almost out of use, are the white hoods decorated with fine net lace that women wear in the Piekary Wielkie district.

As already mentioned, a second oasis of traditional lace-making in Poland was found among the peasants living in villages around Pultusk, north of Warsaw. Here crochet lace had long been used in connection with the local costume, and also, since 1934, round tablecloths were made for city interiors. Pultusk lace, although beautiful, is less delicate and less rich than lace made in Silesia.

To prevent the disappearance of bobbin lace, it was introduced as the favorite technique of the State School of lace-making in Zakopane, a school that became famous for the beauty of its work.

While societies for the preservation of Polish peasant art were successful in stimulating the interest of Polish peasants in lace-making, they failed to do so in white embroidery. The aged peasant women in some districts of Southern and Western Poland still remember the time when whole villages were kept busy with white embroidery,

but the younger generation lost its interest in this patient, tedious and minute handicraft. True, white embroidery is still done by young girls in special trade schools, but without producing results to compare with the white em-



*Silesian Women's Hood with Net Lace*

broidery on the linen worn by peasant women in the Krakow region not so long ago.

The best-known among the Krakow embroideries are those embellishing the batiste kerchiefs of married women, tied into hoods. As in lace, so also in white embroidery, flowers are the preferred decorative motifs. In these

Krakow embroideries influences of old church linens and of old country-manor embroideries are clearly discernible.

These influences are also present in the white embroideries on network for which the women of the small town of Zywiec, near Krakow, became famous. Here lived the only towns-people in Poland who up to quite recent times wore their traditional dress. The most beautiful lace was used on the white batiste blouses, the large white aprons made out of network, and the large kerchiefs worn by girls over their blouses. Before the German invasion, only a few women wore this traditional costume. If time had permitted, there is little doubt that interest in the traditional dress would have been revived, as it was in other parts of Poland, where the younger generation, after discarding the local costume, returned to it when its beauty was better appreciated and pride in it awakened.

White embroidery on linen or on net is also made in Central Poland, for instance, in the Pultusk district, and in Western Poland, in certain districts of Silesia and a few villages near Poznan.

Where lace-making or white embroidery have been practiced, there seems to be no limit to the richness of their floral motifs. Although some motifs seem alike, there exist no two identical pieces of any production. The peasant women never copy, they always create new designs. When looking at their lace and embroideries, one is reminded of nature herself, where in spite of all similarity no two leaves, no two flowers are the same.

In modern Poland, besides introducing peasant lace into city interiors, an attempt had been made to encourage ladies-of-fashion to use hand-made lace as personal adornment. How this could be done was shown by a beautiful evening gown made entirely of Silesian "roses", designed by a well-known artist, Irena Pokrzywnicka for the "Fashion" section in the Polish Pavilion at the New York World's Fair.



*Needle-Point Lace  
State School of Arts and Crafts in Krakow*

# THE SECTION OF HISTORY OF LITERATURE AND ART OF THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN AMERICA HAS INAUGURATED THIS SEASON'S ACTIVITY

The Section's chairman, Dr. Waclaw Lednicki, Professor at the Jagiellonian University and the University of Brussels, at present with Harvard University and the French Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes in New York, sends us the following:

OUR broad aim is to cooperate with representative American scholars as well as with European savants temporarily in the United States, and to give the world of learning a better knowledge of the achievements and currents of Polish learning and literature.

Plans have been perfected to publish in the near future:

1. *The Manuscript Tradition of the Tragedies of Aeschylus* by Prof. Alexander Turyn.

2. *Translations from Mickiewicz* by Prof. G. R. Noyes, the well-known American authority on Slavonic literature, member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences. An annotated volume of some 600 pages.

3. *Ivan the Terrible*, a study by Prof. Lednicki of the Russian Czar, who defended absolutism in his polemics with the Polish Kings.

The Section has also mapped out a program of public lectures and panel discussions on ancient and modern philology. During the current academic year the following public lectures will be delivered:

Prof. H. Grégoire (University of Brussels, École Libre des Hautes Études of New York): *Les Desiderata de la Byzantinologie et leur Actualité*; Prof. J. Seznec (Harvard University): *Histoire Littéraire en France, Tendances et Directions Actuelles*; Dr. A. P. Coleman (Columbia University): *Polish Studies in the U.S.A.*; Prof. G. P. Fedotov: *Current Problems in Russian Literature*; Dr. L. Krzyzanowski: *Current Problems in English Philology*; Prof. A. Turyn (University of Warsaw): *Current Problems in Classical Philology*.

As a further step towards the creation of a forum for international expression, the Section offers a series of ten lectures under the general title of *National Literatures and Universalist Ideals*. The Institute has been fortunate to secure the following scholars to lecture on their national literature: Prof. A. D. Nock (Harvard), Prof. G. Cohen (Sorbonne, Yale, École Libre des Hautes Études), Prof. J. Bonfante (Naples and Princeton), Prof. A. Castro (Madrid and Princeton), Prof. A. Nicoll (London and Yale), Prof. F. W. Foerster (Vienna, Munich, and N. Y. U.), Sigrid Undset, Bernard De Voto, Jan Lechon, and Prof. W. Lednicki.

In addition to the above there will be a series of public lectures on art and literature by such recognized authorities as Dr. I. Piotrowska, Prof. H. Grégoire, Prof. M. Karpovich, Prof. A. Senn, Prof. R. Jakobson, J. Tuwim.

The following Committees have also been formed: 1. History of Polish Literature; 2. History of Art; 3. Musicology.

The Committee on the History of Polish Literature endeavors to bring about close cooperation between the Section's academic body and the Polish poets and writers now in the United States. Fully alive to the necessity of saving Polish literature and science from destruction, it believes that the scholars and men of letters now in America should employ their knowledge, skill and energy to this end.

The Committee on Polish Literature proposes to carry out its program by means of:

1. Compilation of a bibliography of existing English translations from the Polish with the ultimate aim of publishing an anthology of such translations.

2. Study of Polish-American literature.

3. Study of the changes wrought by the war in the Polish language.

4. Public lectures on literature and poetry, as well as personal reminiscences of literary life in pre-war Poland. Published in book form, these would serve as a rich source of material for future historians of Polish literature.

In cooperation with the "Association of Writers from Poland" the Committee offers a cycle of thirteen lectures on Polish literature. These Polish lectures will be published in book form, supplemented by bibliographical references, and will later be translated into English. Participating in this series are: Dr. L. Krzyzanowski, Dr. E. Zawacki, J. Lechon, J. Wittlin, Dr. T. Mitana, Dr. Z. Kosidowski, A. Cwojdzinski, Dr. W. Dzierzykraj-Morawski, Dr. A. Turyn, K. Wierzynski.

All lectures will be delivered at the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences, 37 East 36th Street, New York City.

## THE THIRTIETH FLIGHT (Continued from page 5)

My jacket held me up in the water. I looked around. Not a trace of the plane. The Focke-Wulfs had also disappeared. Only the capsized dinghy from our bomber floated near me. And close by the radio-man, likewise miraculously saved, was bobbing up and down. The rest of the crew had gone down.

"I swam up to the dinghy. My comrade and I tried to turn it over. But it was too unwieldy and too heavy. We were fully aware that we would not be able to stand the low temperature of the water long. We had to turn that dinghy over, or die.

"After fruitless struggling, I remembered that inside the dinghy were a pump and mending equipment. So we punctured the side of the raft, let out some air, and turned it over without further difficulty. We climbed aboard and repaired the damage. An hour after our mishap we were sitting in the inflated dinghy, our existence assured for the immediate future.

"Aid came quickly. They found us after only six hours. So, in spite of everything I came out of my thirtieth combat flight unscathed."

"Well, things didn't look too good there for a while."

"So it would seem. But I don't know of a single case where an airman died on his thirtieth flight. There must be some kind of gentlemen's agreement between death and the pilots. Of course anyone having 29 combat flights to his credit, has two strikes against him. However, death may be lurking in the second series, but she will also respect the sixtieth flight. Many of us have made sixty trips."

At dawn, the first of the returning Polish bombers landed on the field. Others soon followed. All crews were intact.

"Death must be talking with the Germans," smiled my friend. "She respected our division's holiday. Another gentlemen's agreement."

Meanwhile, the sun rose over the horizon. Its bright rays played upon the mighty bodies of the planes. An airman here and there stretched his arms, taking deep, slow breaths.

The fragrance of the luscious green grass and field flowers filled the air.

How pleasant it is to live even when one is a bit "handicapped" in his race with death.